

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04119

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, FR

SUBJ: CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE

REF.: BRUSSELS 1290

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN ON FEB. 14, CABOUAT, BRUNET'S DEPUTY FOR ENERGY, MENTIONED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES EXPECTED TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THEIR MEETING FEB. 18. CABOUAT SAID HE ASSUMED THE QUESTION OF IEA REPRESENTATION AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WOULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH DID NOT CONSIDER IT TO BE A QUESTION OF "FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE."

2. ECON/COM MIN REMINDED CABOUAT THAT U.S. POSITION ON THIS QUESTION WAS FIRM: WE EXPECTED THE IEA TO BE REPRESENTED AT A PREPARATORY MEETING BY DAVIGNON PARTICIPATING AS AN OBSERVER WITH THE RIGHT TO SPEAK. THIS WAS ALSO THE POSITION OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE IEA. CABOUAT REPLIED THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THIS.

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DAVIGNON HAD MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR IN A

RECENT CONVERSATION WITH BRUNET.

3. CABOUAT SAID IT WAS NOT THE FRENCH WHO WERE
OPPOSED TO IEA REPRESENTATION BUT THE PRODUCERS, SUCH
AS ALGERIA, WHO WOULD REGARD IEA PARTICIPATION AS
"PROVOCATIVE." THE ECON/COM MIN REPLIED THAT THE IEA
COULD NOT ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT IT WAS AN INSTRUMENT
OF CONFRONTATION OR THAT ITS PRESENCE AT A PREPARATORY
MEETING WOULD BE PROVOCATIVE.

4. CABOUAT REPLIED THAT HE WAS ALSO AWARE OF THIS.
HE SAID HE COULD HONESTLY NOT SAY AT THIS POINT
WHETHER, IN HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER,
SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD OPPOSE IEA REPRESENTATION AT THE
PREPARATORY MEETING. HE SAID A FINAL GOF POSITION
ON THIS QUESTION HAD NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH CABOUAT WAS EXTREMELY GUARDED
IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED
IF THE GOF, IN THE FACE OF THE SOLID OPPOSITION OF THE
U.S., DAVIGNON AND THE OTHER IEA MEMBERS WOULD PERSIST
FOR LONG IN ITS OPPOSITION TO IEA REPRESENTATION
THROUGH DAVIGNON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING. FRENCH
PRESTIGE IS HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE PROPOSAL FOR A
CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE AND WE WOULD NOT EXPECT
THE GOF TO EXPOSE THE PROJECT TO JEOPARDY OVER A
TECHNICAL POINT OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO IT (THOUGH
NOT TO US).

RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY KISSINGER.

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